



HR0258

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives congratulate the 420 dedicated and
4 path-breaking parent mentors for their daily commitment to
5 working with early childhood students; and

6 WHEREAS, Decades of research confirms when families are
7 involved in their children's education, children perform
8 better in school, attend school more regularly, complete more
9 homework, demonstrate more positive attitudes and behaviors,
10 graduate from high school at higher rates, and are more likely
11 to enroll in higher education; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois is proud to be home to the nation's
13 leading model for parent engagement-the Parent Mentor Program;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In only 6 months, through an Illinois State Board
16 of Education grant to the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and
17 Refugee Rights, the Parent Mentor Program has expanded
18 successfully to 13 communities throughout Illinois - Aurora,
19 Bolingbrook, Chicago Ridge, East Moline, Moline, Skokie, and 8
20 communities throughout Chicago; and

21 WHEREAS, Strong partnerships have been formed between

1 local schools and the following community organizations: Arab
2 American Family Services, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council,
3 Casa Guanajuato, Developing Communities Project, Enlace
4 Chicago, Family Focus Aurora, Logan Square Neighborhood
5 Association, Mujeres Latinas en Accion, Niles Township ELL
6 Parent Center and Open Communities, Northwest Side Housing
7 Center, Southwest Organizing Project, Southwest Suburban
8 Immigrant Project, and The Resurrection Project; and

9 WHEREAS, These community organizations have recruited and
10 trained over 420 parent mentors, mostly immigrant and African
11 American women, to work directly with students in the classroom
12 for 2 hours per day every day; and

13 WHEREAS, The dedication of parent mentors has cut the
14 adult-student ratio in half and increased individual attention
15 to more than 10,000 low-income early childhood students every
16 day, particularly in Illinois' growing student body of English
17 language learners; and

18 WHEREAS, Over 420 teachers in high-needs positions benefit
19 working side-by-side with a parent mentor on a daily basis and
20 benefit a deepened understanding of the community in which they
21 teach; and

22 WHEREAS, 44 school administrators from across the State

1 have testified that the Parent Mentor Program has become so
2 integral to their schools that their "teachers can no longer
3 imagine their classrooms without their parent mentors"; and

4 WHEREAS, The Parent Mentor Program has an 18 year track
5 record of improving test scores and increasing high school
6 graduation rates based on the model programs of Logan Square
7 Neighborhood Association and Southwest Organizing Project; and

8 WHEREAS, The Parent Mentor Program is a leading immigrant
9 integration and women's leadership model, offering a ladder of
10 opportunity and opening doors for parents-mostly immigrant and
11 African American women-into education, careers, and public
12 life; thus changing their own family's whole trajectory; and

13 WHEREAS, The Parent Mentor Program offers parents not only
14 an opportunity to volunteer or attend a workshop, but to
15 develop as leaders to transform their lives, schools, and
16 communities; and

17 WHEREAS, The Parent Mentor Program is a cost-effective
18 program, costing approximately \$200 per early childhood
19 student; and

20 WHEREAS, Communities downstate and throughout northern
21 Illinois are eager to bring the Parent Mentor Program to their

1 schools; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we express our support for appropriating the Parent Mentor
5 Program for Early Childhood Education at \$3.5 million through
6 an Illinois State Board of Education grant to the Illinois
7 Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the Illinois State Board of Education and the
10 Parent Mentor Program.